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In the Claims:

Please renumber the second occurrence of claim 21 to claim 22.

Please rewrite claims 1, 13, 18, 23, 43 and 45 as follows:

1. (Amended) A fuel cell battery structure comprising:

at least two fuel cells each comprising an anode, cathode, and an ionically-conducting medium disposed therebetween;

5 a connector block, disposed adjacent to one side of the at least two fuel cells, comprising means for electrically connecting the anodes and cathodes of the stacked cells into an electrical interconnection selected from the group consisting of series electrical interconnection, parallel electrical interconnection and mixed series and parallel electrical interconnection, and wherein said block mechanically holds the respective fuel cells in a fixed position as a result of mechanical engagement; and

10 wherein another side of the at least two fuel cells remains exposed to permit disengagement and removal of the fuel cells from the connector block.

7. (Amended) The fuel cell battery of claim 6, wherein said block is supported by support means to provide an open area beneath said block as part of said air duct.

13. (Amended) The fuel cell battery of claim 10, wherein said apertures are through apertures, and said block is comprised of an electrically insulating material; wherein the means for electrically connecting the anodes and cathodes of the stacked cells into a desired electrical interconnection comprises electrically conductive receptacle elements disposed within each of said apertures for engagement with said terminal conductor elements and for selective electrical interconnection into an electrical interconnection selected from the group consisting of series electrical interconnection, parallel electrical interconnection and mixed series and parallel electrical interconnection.

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*QH*

18. (Amended) The FCB device of claim 17, wherein the connector block further comprises a configuration means integral thereto; the configuration means, electrically coupled to the cathode terminating element and anode terminating element of the plurality of fuel cells, for configuring the plurality of fuel cells into an electrical interconnection selected from the group consisting of series electrical interconnection, parallel electrical interconnection and mixed series and parallel electrical interconnection.

*AB*

23. (Amended) The FCB device of claim 22, wherein the connector block further comprises a configuration means integral thereto; the configuration means, electrically coupled to the cathode terminating element and anode terminating element of the plurality of fuel cells, for configuring the plurality of fuel cells into an electrical interconnection selected from the group consisting of series electrical interconnection, parallel electrical interconnection and mixed series and parallel electrical interconnection.

*AB*

43. (Amended) The FCB device of claim 38, wherein the connector block further comprises a configuration means integral thereto; the configuration means, electrically coupled to the cathode terminating elements and anode terminating elements of the fuel cells, for configuring the plurality of fuel cells into an electrical interconnection selected from the group consisting of series electrical interconnection, parallel electrical interconnection and mixed series and parallel electrical interconnection.

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45. (Amended) The FCB device of claim 43, wherein the configuration means comprises a switching network electrically coupled to terminal ends of electrical connecting elements that slidably mate with interconnecting elements electrically coupled to the cathode terminating elements and anode terminating elements for the cathodes and anodes of the plurality of fuel cells, wherein the switching network operates under in response to control signals from a controller, to configuring the plurality of fuel cells into an electrical interconnection selected from the group consisting of series electrical interconnection, parallel electrical interconnection and mixed series and parallel electrical interconnection for output to at least one pair of output terminals.